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ACTION CIRCULAR 884 VERBATIM TEXT

USC understands several non-aligned countries tend equate Soviet offensive missiles Cuba with US Naval Base Guantanamo, and are attracted by idea that US should give up base simultaneously with or soon after removal Soviet missiles. While we do not rpt not wish stimulate discussion this subject, if it is raised you may find following useful to demonstrate missile bases in no way comparable Guantanamo. Text may be passed selected officials at highest level if deemed necessary adequately to convey our viewpoint. French text being supplied.

BEGIN VERBATIM TEXT

In contrast Soviet offensive weapons based in Cuba and aimed at US and other American Republics, Guantanamo represents no RPT no threat to Cuba or to any country and, as is fully evident ~~xxxx~~ by events since 1959, it has not even exerted influence on Castro regime which has evolved so unfavorably to US interests. It is oldest overseas US Naval Base, established 1903, pursuant lease agreements signed by Presidents US and Cuba. Agreements granted US right to develop base as coaling and naval

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REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *2/6/63*

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ARA/CMA:GHSUM 11-9-62 ARA - Mr. Martin
ARA/RPA:WLSWilliams ARA - Mr. Hurwitch (in draft) EUR - Mr. Friedman (in draft)
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and of the free world as well.

US GOVT not rpt not prepared discuss Guantanamo which is irrelevant in the context of present Cuban situation since (a) only question at issue is Soviet Union compliance with its commitment to remove ~~offensive~~ ~~offensive~~ threat (including appropriate verification and establishment suitable safeguards against introduction such weapons in future), and (b) US GOVT has stated willingness give assurances against invasion Cuba upon such Soviet compliance.

Castro injection GUANTANAMO issue into present question of Soviet missile bases in Cuba constitutes effort upset agreement in principle already reached between US and USSR to remove missiles.

It cannot be considered that Base is being held in Cuba against wishes Cuban people, since in view refusal Castro hold free elections and the complete betrayal of the program of the revolution and his promises to Cuban people which led them to support him before he took power there is no evidence that his regime is in fact representative of Cuban people and much ~~more~~ evidence that it is not. In past, under representative governments, there was no rpt no serious demand to abandon Base. US considers it would be unreasonable to expect to entertain any discussion of Base with a regime which so clearly satellite of USSR which has used its dominating position in Cuba to create serious threat to American states and entire defensive posture of Free World.

END VERBATIM TEXT.

End

ACTION: RUSK

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